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Reserve

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METHOD DEMONSTRATION ANALYSIS
for

A Home Industry

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Demonstration

Operations:

MAKING POINTED FOUR-STRAND BRAID

(For use in making hats, bags,
belts, table mats, etc.)

A. Preparing the material

B. Starting the braid

C. Weaving the braid

D. Adding new pieces to the braid

Introduction

The pointed four-strand braid may be made of any flat, pliable materials such as ribbon, cotton tape, paper, inner bark of certain trees (popular), or long fronds or leaves of plants such as palmetto, cattail, tule, flag, and bulrush. Corn husks may also be used.

The material chosen depends upon the use of the finished article which is made of the braid.

A color scheme can be worked out by making each strand of a different color.

Operations

Important steps

Key points

A
PREPARING

Cut strips of material the desired width. 1/8 to 1/4 inch is average for use in hat and purse braid.

Cut pieces uniform in width. Lengths may vary.

THE
MATERIAL

If native material is used, moisten it enough to make it pliable.

Only slightly damp, not wet.

B
STARTING

Hold one piece of material in each hand. Cross the pieces, laying the right piece in front of the left piece (the side next to you). (Fig. 1)

Hold across the palm. Shape the cross like an X and hold in a position that throws the larger angles on the top and bottom.

THE
BRAID

Hold the center of the cross between the thumb and first finger of the left hand. (Fig. 2)

Keep the work in upright position. (Fig. 2)

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Operations	Important steps	Key points
<u>B</u> (Continued)	Bend the upper right strand forward and crease it down on the edge of the next strand. (Fig. 3)	Always bend the strands toward you.
	Transfer the material to the right hand. Pivot the entire piece of work toward the left about an eighth round. Return to the left hand.	Hold point of crossing of the material between the thumb and first finger
	Bend the upper right strand forward and crease it down on the edge of the next strand.	This strand should fall parallel to the second strand from it. (Fig. 4)
	Pivot the entire piece of work an eighth-round turn toward the left.	Transfer work to right hand to pivot into new position. Then return to left hand.
	Bend the upper right strand forward, crease it down on the edge of the next strand and lay it over this first crosswise strand and under the second.	This forms two pairs of parallel strands. You are now ready to weave the braid. (Fig. 5)
<u>C</u> WEAVING THE BRAID	Hold the braid in the left hand. With the right hand, work with the upper right strand, making two turns and two interweaves before picking up another weaver. Proceed with these movements as follows:	Always weave with the upper left strand alternately with the upper right strand. Always bend the material forward (toward you) and crease it over the edge of the strand on top of it.
	1. Crease the strand forward and lay straight across braid to the left side.	
	2. Lay under the left strand. (Fig. 6)	
	3. Crease forward and downward, across two strands and parallel to the extreme right strand.	
	4. Weave over the first crosswise strand and under the second. (Fig. 7)	

Operations	Important steps	Key points
<u>C</u> (Continued)	<p>You now have two pairs of parallels and are ready to weave in similar movements with the upper left strand.</p>	
	<p>Transfer your work to the right hand. Working with the left hand, bend the upper left strand forward and across to the right side of the braid. Lay it under the right strand. (Fig. 8) Bend it forward and downward across two strands and parallel to the extreme left strand. Weave over the first strand it crossed and under the second. (Fig. 8)</p>	<p>Hold between thumb and first finger.</p>
	<p>Now you have two parallel pairs again and are ready to work with the upper right strand as before. (Fig. 9)</p>	<p>Continue working alternately with upper right and upper left strands.</p>
	<p>Repeat working the steps as described until the strands are woven within about an inch of the end.</p>	<p>Keep your work clamped firmly between the thumb and finger while you work. Add strands one at a time.</p>
	<p>Then add new strands. Weave any length of braid desired.</p>	
<u>D</u> ADDING NEW PIECES OF MATERIAL	<p>Add new material to the shorter strand by sliding it well up into the woven area back of the short strand. Hold firmly in place and continue to weave.</p> <p>Close off by turning the ends back a short distance into the weaving.</p>	<p>The braid is stronger and more even if each new piece of material is added at a different point.</p>

Steps in Making Four-strand pointed braid

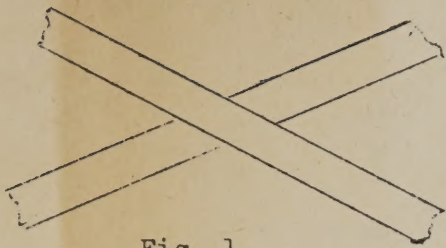


Fig. 1

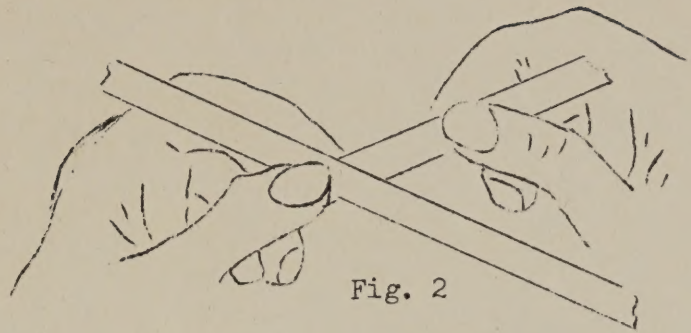


Fig. 2

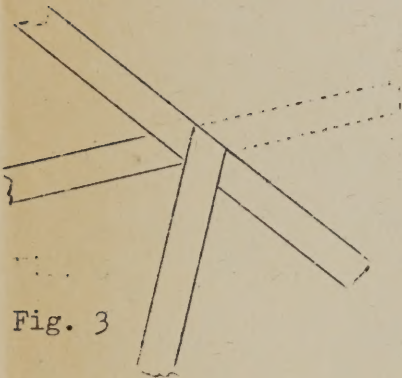


Fig. 3

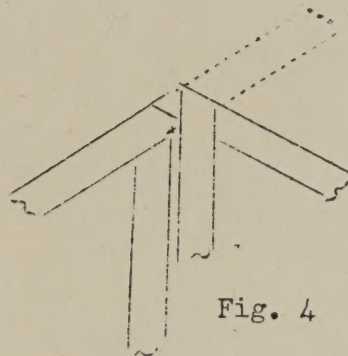


Fig. 4

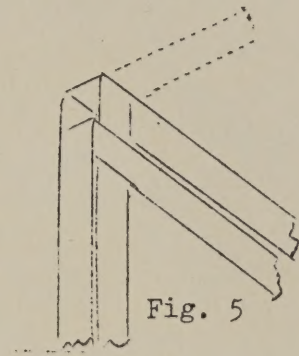


Fig. 5

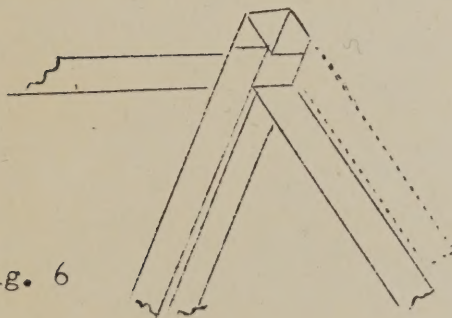


Fig. 6

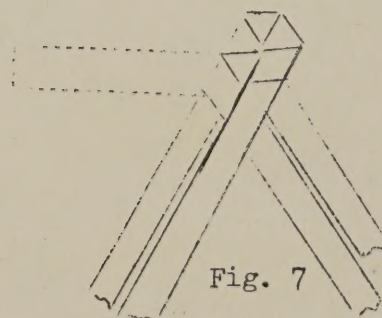


Fig. 7

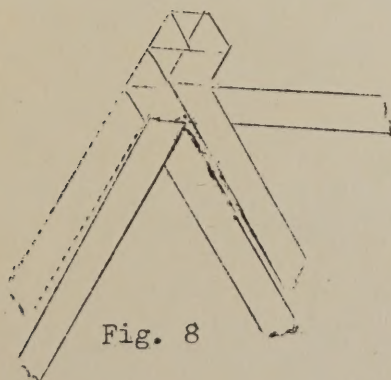


Fig. 8

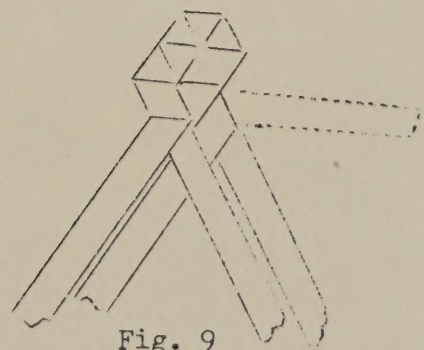


Fig. 9

Note - Dotted lines indicate position of strand before it is turned.

